

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed November 26, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 20 - 24 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claim 22 and 24 - 26, and has canceled claims 23, 27 and 28 without waiver, disclaimer or prejudice. Applicant has canceled claims 23, 27 and 28 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 1 –21 and 29 – 33 were allowed. Additionally, the Office Action indicated that claim 22 would be allowable if re-written to overcome the stated objection. In this regard, Applicant has amended claim 22 and respectfully asserts that claim 22 is in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Office Action indicates that claims 22 and 28 are objected to because of various informalities. As set forth above, Applicant has amended claim 22 and has canceled claim 28. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the objections have been accommodated.

Rejection under 35 USC § 112

The Office Action indicates that claims 24 - 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. As set forth above, Applicant has amended claims 24 - 26 and respectfully asserts that the rejections have been rendered moot.

Rejection under 35 USC § 102

The Office Action indicates that claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Sano*. As set forth above, Applicant has canceled claim 23 and respectfully asserts that the rejection has been rendered moot.

Rejection under 35 USC § 103

The Office Action indicates that claims 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by *Sano*. As set forth above, Applicant has canceled claims 27 and 28 and respectfully asserts that the rejections have been rendered moot.

Cited Art of Record

The cited art of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered

moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. McClure", is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel R. McClure, Reg. No, 38,962

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